The Southern PATRIOT

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Progress Is Made in Fight to End Discrimination in Southern Schools

RECENT months have produced some historic advances in the fight to eliminate discrimination and equalize educational opportunities in the field of education in the Southern and border states.

For the first time Negroes attended the summer sessions of the University of Oklahoma, the University of Kentucky, and Oklahoma A. & M. to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned.

A second Negro has been admitted by the medical school of the University of Arkansas, and the University of Texas medical school during the present school term admitted its first Negro student but with certain limitations.

There was encouraging activity in almost all Southern and border states.

Kentucky

One undergraduate and four graduate Negro students registered for the Fall term at the University of Kentucky following a summer session with 29 Negroes in attendance.

Richard Lewis Dawson, 22-year-old graduate of Kentucky State College for Negroes, has applied for admission to the 1950 class of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Backing the application of Dawson is the Louisville Chapter of the NAACP with Lyman T. Johnson as president. Johnson, a Louisville high school teacher, was successful petitioner in a suit which permitted Negroes to take graduate courses at the University of Kentucky.

Texas

Herman Barnett, Eagle boy scout, cab driver, fighter pilot, and honor graduate of Samuel Houston College, will be the first Negro to study at the University of Texas medical school at Galveston.

However, Barnett will technically be enrolled at the Texas State University for Negroes at Houston under a contract with the University of Texas covering graduate instruction not offered by the Houston institution.

Barnett also had been accepted by the University of Chicago Medical School and by Meharry.

President T. S. Painter of the University of Texas stated that Barnett would be transferred to the Houston school when it is able to offer medical courses.

President R. O'Hara Lanier of Texas State University had asked the 51st state legislature for an appropriation of $10,000,000 but only $400,000 was granted for the new institution, and $185,000 of this amount was designated for a medical school for Negroes.

Medical Care for Negroes in Texas

The Negro population in Texas totals 636,538 but there are only 138 doctors to serve them. According to the **Houston Post** 203 out of 254 counties in the state have no Negro doctors and 21 counties have only one. Harris County, where Houston is located, has 20 doctors for 103,745 Negroes, but has 730 doctors for 423,000 white citizens. In the face of these conditions all that the great state of Texas has done is to admit conditionally one Negro medical student to the University of Texas and to appropriate $185,000 for a two year operating fund for a Negro medical school at Texas State University.

Oklahoma

An estimated 75 Negro students attended the summer session of the University of Oklahoma and 6 of that number planned to enroll in the Fall term. We do not have information on the enrollment at Oklahoma A. & M.

Julius Ceasor Hill, 40-year-old Negro student in the University of Oklahoma Fall term, won his fight to be housed on the campus at Norman, but according to the **Austin American** the University regents directed President George L. Cross to enforce segregation "to the greatest extent." On his housing application blank, Hill had written "American" in the blank for race. He received a receipt for his $10.00 deposit. When it was discovered that he was a Negro, his reservation was cancelled. There was a hurried meeting

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—Courier-Journal photo by Thomas V. Miller, Jr.

Twenty-nine Negroes, most of them teachers, attended the Summer Session of University of Kentucky. This is an informal seminar led by L. Jones of Evarts.

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Progress Made In Fight to End Discrimination in South's Schools

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of the regents to discuss the crisis. The result was to authorize temporary housing for Negroes "in separate units 'substantially equal to facilities provided for white students'."

The ruling of the regents, states the **American**, breaks "an effective but unwritten law of the university city of Norman that no Negroes can remain in the city after dark."

Missouri

Joseph C. Gaeth, of Houston, Tex., is the first student to be enrolled at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. Gaeth is a graduate of Xavier in New Orleans where he maintained an average of 90 for 4 years. Negroes have been admitted in the summer session of the college of arts and science and graduate school of St. Louis University since 1944.

Public Schools

Parents of Negro children in Virginia have pioneered in seeking legal redress for discrimination in the public schools. Following their historic case in which a Federal Judge held county school officials in contempt for failure to equalize Negro and white schools, the firm of Hill, Martin and Robinson, of Richmond, has instituted suits in other sections of the state.

During the last week in September a petition was filed in South Boston, Va., charging discrimination between white and Negro schools. In Lynchburg an inter-racial meeting of more than 800 persons agreed to broaden a petition to the school board for a new Negro high school to include a demand for "complete equalization" public schools.

In Irwin County (Valdosta), Ga., and Durham, N. C., suits have been filed by parents of Negro children demanding equal facilities, and similar action is planned in Tampa, Fla.

In Texarkana and Winnsboro, Tex., the State NAACP is seeking a permanent injunction to end segregation in the public schools. Last June 15 U. S. District Court Judge Ben Rice ruled that segregation of Mexican American pupils except in the first grade is unconstitutional. This judgment, however, does not apply to Negroes.

Maryland Uses Regional Plan As Excuse to Bar Negroes

Our contention that the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education was a step backward and not forward is confirmed by events in Maryland where the state is using its participation in the regional plan as an excuse for not admitting Negroes to the state university.

Six Negroes filed a suit at Baltimore to compel the University to act on their applications for admission.

In seeking dismissal of the suit, Attorney General Hall Hammond argued that the "regional compact", approved by the state legislature in June, gives three of the applicants the right to attend schools of equal standards in other states at no additional expense.

The three are Miss Esther McCready, nursing, Donald W. Steward, and Richard Williams, dentistry. Hammond contended they could attend Meharry Medical School for Negroes in Nashville, designated as a regional center. Richard Tyson, who had applied for admission to the University's school of pharmacy, would be eligible to attend Xavier University at New Orleans. The other two applicants, Hiram T. Whittle, engineering, and Lucille Williams, graduate work in home economics, could attend Maryland's Princess Anne branch for Negroes, said Hammond.

This case has more than local interest. It probably will be the pattern for many more suits involving the legal status of the regional school plan. The central question concerns the right of a state to compel Negroes to go out of the state to seek instruction which is available to white students within the state.

As we go to press, Judge W. Conwell Smith of Baltimore dismissed the mandamus proceedings brought by Miss McCready and stated that Maryland, in offering her a scholarship at Meharry under the regional compact, had fulfilled its obligations. The case will be reported in detail in our next issue.

University of Louisville Faculty Vote to Admit Negroes

In a poll of 119 members of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Louisville, in which 79 replies were received, 82% voted to admit Negroes to graduate schools without segregation, where the desired courses were not offered by a state supported institution for Negroes; 6% complained that the 4 plans outlined in the ballot were all too conservative and therefore they were not in favor of any of them; 8% favored other plans including segregated regional schools; and 4% did not answer the question.

Seventy-two per cent of those voting favored admitting Negroes to undergraduate schools now, while 23% voted against such admission. More than half of the latter group qualified their answer by saying not enough preparation had yet been made, or that it was too soon for such a move.

Seventy-three per cent voted against the Day Law requiring separate schools, while 15% favored the law. About 12% did not reply to the question.

The poll was conducted during the summer by Herbert Kresh, a student in the medical school of the University, to whom we are indebted for sending us the returns.

Bishop Says U. S. Doomed Unless Segregation Ends

America's hopes for world leadership are doomed unless its people rid themselves of racial discrimination, the Right Rev. William Scarlett, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Missouri, said in a sermon in San Francisco in connection with the Communion's 56th triennial convention. The U. S. is competing, the Bishop said, with "another great power," which has "at least got rid of discrimination based solely on the color of a man's skin," and he warned that "vague generalities" and "pious aspirations for brotherhood" are not enough.

Vote of Negroes Decisive In Atlanta Democratic Primary

Voting for the first time in a Democratic city primary, Atlanta's Negroes were a decisive factor in the renomination of Mayor William B. Hartsfield by a 102-vote majority over three opponents. Of 94,733 qualified voters, 22,092 were Negroes. During the administration of Mayor Hartsfield, the city hired its first Negro policemen.

The University of Kentucky Has No Difficulty In Assimilating Negro Students*

By PAUL HUGHES and LOURENA EATON

Torn between a federal court decision and Kentucky's Day Law (requiring segregation in schools) the University of Kentucky seems to be accomplishing something of a near miracle in handling Negro students enrolled in its summer school.

U. of K. has admitted the Negroes—29 of them.

President Donovan, a man of tact yet determined that the state and the university shall give the experiment a fair trial, saw to it that on enrollment, each of the Negro students—for the most part mature teachers— had all of the facts explained to him. Each was told quite frankly that the university was anxious to do the best job it could to provide high-level instruction, but that it was necessary under penalty of the law to abide by the segregation regulation. Students were asked to select their own seats, but in a group together, in classes, in the cafeteria and in the library.

Apparently there exists no feeling of resentment against the university. Cooperation by both races has been wholehearted.

A spot check of approximately 25 white students revealed only two who belonged to the traditionalists who felt that Kentucky should provide a separate school for the Negroes. All others questioned either had no objections or were positive in a favorable reaction.

Dr. Ellis Hartford, a professor in the College of Education, believes that it "is a perfectly normal and natural situation". Dr. Hartford said that in his roll book he just has a list of names with no markings as to color or race. He further explained that in one of his classes, it worked out that a Negro was made chairman of a group, and that "everything is working out fine."

A few diehards made such comments as "I don't like it", upon seeing the Negroes in line in the cafeteria, or "I can't quite get used to this". Such opinions definitely are in the minority on the university campus. In fact, the white students seemed more embarrassed than the Negroes when the professors publicly explained to the classes the regulations stipulated by the Day Law.

Dean William S. Taylor of the College of Education in which nearly all of the Negro students are taking work for masters degrees, said his faculty members have been impressed with the serious interest and the capabilities of the Negroes, and that he is pleased with the unruffled calmness, that has prevailed from the beginning. "The whole procedure has been marked with a naturalness—nobody of either race said or done anything that was not in good taste or good behavior".

Shown here Negro students sat apart from white students at the University of Kentucky in deference to the Day Law, which requires segregation. However, as is the case, latecomer white students often sat around the Negroes, and nobody seemed to mind. Professors said the Negroes worked hard and caused no "incidents."

*Abstracted from a much longer article published in the Louisville Courier-Journal, July 17, 1949. Reprinted through the courtesy of the Courier-Journal.

Mixed Races Train Well At Texas Air Force Base As Segregation Ends

Prophets of doom who say, "of course I am against segregation, but it just won't work in the South," or "we aren't ready for it yet," should ponder the ease with which Negroes are received and assimilated on Southern campuses where the courts have required or courageous leadership has insisted on democratic practices. Now comes the testimony of the U. S. Air Force on its experience at its largest installation, the Lackland base at San Antonio, Texas, with 26,000 persons.

The following dispatch is by B. K. Thorne and appeared in the N. Y. Times on Sept. 18:

"The first ten weeks of the integration of the white and Negro Air Force enlistees taking their initial training, has been completed in thorough harmony, it was stated today by Maj. Gen. Charles W. Lawrence, commanding general of the indoctrination division of the Air Force air training command.

"All the recruits at vast Lackland Air Force base here, the largest installation in the whole Air Force, live, eat and study as a body and the grouping together of Negro and white personnel has not caused any incidents.

" 'The integration of the base was accomplished with complete harmony,' General Lawrence stated, 'Orders went through to completely end segregation among trainees on a certain date and when that date arrived the segregation was ended. No unpleasant incidents resulted and the white boys and the Negro boys in the training are getting along well together. And of course the same applies to the WAFS (members of the Women's Air Force).'

"There is no discrimination in picking the leaders and Negroes often lead the mixed fights."